

him about it. It will be noticed that there is a large list of those whose addresses are unknown. We have written three times to the last known address, or have used every means possible to secure the present location. In many instances the letters have come back from the postoffice marked "Can't be found." We ask the help of every physician in the three coast states to locate these physicians and to give us prompt advices of the death of physicians in their vicinity, or of the advent of new ones. We have used the greatest diligence in correcting the Oregon and Washington lists, but doubtless there will be found many errors. These we shall endeavor to reduce in number during the year and bring those lists up to the standard of the California department. For the sake of easier reference, the town of location has been stricken from the general alphabetical list, and the county substituted for it. The county has also been placed at the top of each page, to serve as a running guide. Tinted paper has been introduced to further aid ready reference. The Publication Committee has given a great deal of careful thought to all of these details and sincerely trusts that the result of its labors will be satisfactory to you. Suggestions from members will be highly esteemed, and in every case will be carefully considered by the committee.

Very rapid progress has been made along certain lines of research in experimental medicine.

SERUM TEST FOR BLOOD. While but little definite knowledge of the changes in serum due to immunization has been obtained, a large mass of facts and information relative to immunization, toxics and anti-toxics has been piled up. Many men in many places are working over these facts with the hope of sooner or later hitting upon the missing explanations. Into almost every branch and department of medicine has been injected the serum, in some form or other. Its medico-legal value has more recently been developed, and will undoubtedly become in time a very important asset of the court. The power to resist disease induced by grafting the disease upon the living animal in such a way as to secure the end desired without causing the death of the animal, has been recognized for many years in at least the one case of smallpox. Why this power of resistance is so induced, what brings about this immunization, are questions as yet unanswered. Why is it that the anti-substances which are produced by the presence of bacteria in the body will attack those particular bacteria and no others? We simply do not know, but we recognize the fact. The work of Gruber, Durham and Widal has attracted universal attention to the truth of these facts. It is the precipitins, one of the four classes of anti-substances that may be produced by the action of bacteria or of emulsions of various organs upon the blood, that bid fair to be of great value in medico-legal work. The posi-

tive determination of semen is stated to be a matter of great ease, by this method. The determination of blood stains will be of much more value and of more frequent use. Any previously known test could identify old, putrid or dried-up and dirty human blood, simply as blood, and not always even as that, to the entire satisfaction of the court. By the use of the new serum method, when properly handled and with full and proper control, Evans and Gehrman claim that it is possible to determine human blood, no matter how old, dirty or putrid it may be, and in dilutions as great as 1 to 1,000,000; far beyond the power of any spectroscopic method.

Why in the world do so many people waste four years of their lives, and several hundreds of

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dollars, at the least, in order to acquire a medical education? It is perfectly useless when acquired. All that is really necessary, to practice medicine, is to take a large number of medical journals, read carefully the directions given by the advertisers, act in accordance with their instructions, and there you are. It need not be the business of the "doctor" to know what the sick or supposedly sick person is taking; the manufacturer knows that; he is making life easy for the doctor. His is the heavy burden; he must find out what is the right thing for the patient to take under given circumstances, and all you have to do is to obey him exactly. For instance: "Doctor, I need a tonic." The next time a patient says this to you, write a prescription for Colden's Liquid Beef Tonic. The patient may be right." There you have it. Don't you see? The patient makes the diagnosis, and "he may be right"; the manufacturer makes the stuff for him, and you are instructed to order him to take it; it may do him good; or it may "do him" good and plenty; you cannot tell. But the all-wise manufacturer knows what you should do, and tells you to do it. There is, of course, the odd chance that the patient may be suffering from nephritis, a heart lesion, or something else that would require far different stuff from what may be contained in the "tonic"; but that is none of your business—the manufacturer assures you that "the patient may be right." Can the mind of man conceive impudence carried to a greater extreme! And we let this sort of thing go on! We, the members of a liberal profession, supposedly possessing brains and special education, permit this unmitigated, insulting impudence!

There seems to be more or less complaint all over the country in regard to the hodge-podge appearance of the average drug store, and the large number of proprietary medicines and nostrums carried and sold by the average druggist. There is also talk, in many quarters, about office dispensing by the physician. The situation is certainly

A CURIOUS CONDITION.